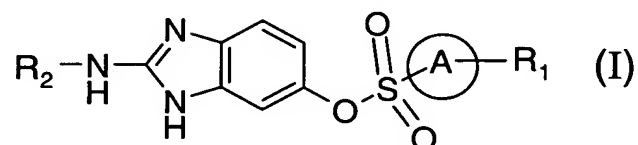


ABSTRACT

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The present invention discloses and claims benzimidazole compounds of formula (I):



in which A is aryl or heteroaryl; R₁ is selected from optionally substituted alkyl, alkoxy, aryl or heteroaryl, NH-lower alkyl or NH-cycloalkyl, or halogen, NH₂; 1-
 10 imidazolyl or SO₂Me; R₂ is selected from optionally substituted -CO-alkyl, -CO-cycloalkyl, -CO-aralkyl, -CO-aryl, -CO-alkoxy, aryl or aralkyl, or -CO-amino, CO-NHR₃ or CO-R₃R₄ wherein R₃ and R₄ are selected independently from hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, fluoroalkyl, alkynyl, heteroalkyl, alkylheteroalkyl, aryl, aralkyl or together form an alkylene chain optionally containing one to 4
 15 heteroatoms; a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or a prodrug thereof; the use of compounds of formula (I) for the treatment of cancer, and pharmaceutical compositions comprising a compound of formula (I) and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvants or diluents.

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